

City Manager's



Weekly Update Monday, January 7, 2008

Weather watch: Even with utility departments ready for Friday's severe weather, and the assistance of two Merced line crews, Mother Nature gave the city a pretty good wallop with the combination of winds and heavy rains. That preparation paid off, however, with Lodi suffering far fewer problems from the storm than other locations in Northern California. All power was restored by 10:45 p.m. Friday.

In the end, most problems were contained to affect as few residents as possible. The Public Works and Electric Utility departments and the City Manager are pleased with the way city crews responded, keeping disruptions to a minimum for most Lodi residents. About 4,500 electric customers (about 1 in 5) lost power at one time or another, but most had service restored within one to three hours.

Shallow flooding covered many city streets as the stormwater drainage city was, at times, unable to keep up with the volume of water in the early afternoon. Most street flooding was associated with plugged catch basins that were readily cleared. High winds snapped tree branches, causing problems with power lines, and upended trees.

Other communities have not fared as well as Lodi. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District was reporting Monday morning that it still had 5,000 customers without electricity and repairs would not be completed until late Tuesday. Pacific Gas & Electric reported it still has 100,000 customers without power as of Monday morning and some customers won't have service until the middle of this week. PG&E had 600 line crews at work and was receiving an addition 80 crews from the Pacific Northwest, Nevada and Southern California.

Street light requests: In addition to being able to use the "Talk to Lodi" feature on the webpage, a link has been established from www.lodi.gov to an Electric Utility web page that allows residents to report problems with street lights.